

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. ***(Currently Amended)*** A method for generating a high-velocity cutting jet comprises the steps of forming a high-velocity jet of ~~[[a]]~~ liquid water, forming a suspension of an abrasive material in a carrier gas comprising ~~a condensable vapour~~steam, and so entraining the suspension of abrasive material into the liquid water jet that at least part of the ~~vapour~~steam condenses to produce a jet of a mixture comprising abrasive material and liquid water.
2. ***(Original)*** A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the suspension of abrasive material in carrier gas is provided at above ambient pressure.
3. ***(Currently Amended)*** A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said condensation of the ~~vapour~~steam produces a pressure close to ambient pressure.
4. ***(Previously Presented)*** A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier gas also comprises a gas that is not condensable when entrained into the liquid jet.
5. ***(Cancelled)*** ~~A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said vapour is condensable to form said liquid.~~
6. ***(Cancelled)*** ~~A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the liquid comprises water.~~
7. ***(Cancelled)*** ~~A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the condensable vapour comprises steam.~~
8. ***(Previously Presented)*** A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the entrainment step is performed at least partially within a restricted bore of a nozzle means.
9. ***(Original)*** A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the entrainment step performed at least partially within chamber means traversed by the liquid jet before entering said nozzle means.

10. **(Previously Presented)** A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising the further step of introducing at least one of condensable vapour and non-condensable gas into the liquid jet subsequently to the entrainment of the abrasive suspension.
11. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus for generating a high-velocity cutting jet, comprising means ~~to form for forming~~ a high-velocity jet of liquid water, means ~~to form for forming~~ a suspension of an abrasive material in a carrier gas comprising ~~a condensable vapour~~ steam, and means ~~to entrain for entraining~~ said suspension into the jet of liquid so that at least part of the ~~vapour~~ steam condenses to produce a jet of a mixture comprising abrasive material and liquid water.
12. **(Cancelled)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the liquid comprises water.
13. **(Cancelled)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the condensable vapour comprises steam.
14. **(Previously Presented)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the carrier gas also comprises a gas that is not condensable when entrained into the liquid jet.
15. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the means for forming a liquid jet ~~forming means~~ comprises a source of liquid under pressure so connected to a restricted orifice ~~means~~ that the liquid is projected therefrom as a high-velocity jet.
16. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 15, ~~provided with further~~ comprising a nozzle ~~means~~ having an elongate bore extending between an inlet and outlet thereof and so substantially aligned with the liquid jet projected from the orifice ~~means~~ that said jet may pass therethrough.
17. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein the nozzle ~~means~~ comprises a substantially parallel-sided bore.
18. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein the nozzle ~~means~~ comprises a bore tapering between the inlet and the outlet of the nozzle ~~means~~.
19. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein the nozzle ~~means~~ comprises a plurality of nozzle sections, a bore of each said nozzle section being substantially

aligned with the liquid jet.

20. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 16, ~~wherein further comprising~~ means is ~~provided to introduce~~ for introducing one or more flows of at least one of said ~~condensable vapour steam~~ and non-condensable gas into the nozzle ~~means intermediate of the~~ inlet and outlet thereof.

21. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 16, ~~provided with further~~ comprising a chamber ~~means disposed between the orifice means and the nozzle means,~~ which is traversed by the liquid jet and into which the suspension of abrasive material in carrier gas is passed so as to be entrained into the liquid jet.

22. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 21, ~~provided with further~~ comprising a frustoconical transition zone connecting the chamber ~~means to the inlet of the~~ nozzle ~~means~~.

23. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the means ~~to form for~~ forming a suspension of abrasive material in a carrier gas comprises means ~~to generate for~~ generating a flow of said ~~condensable vapour steam~~, a supply of abrasive material and means ~~to meter for metering~~ the abrasive material into said flow.